



Attorney Docket No.
03/60-52794.1

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : SHIMAZU, et al.
Serial No. : 09/197,499 Examiner: N. Nguyen
Filed : November 23, 1998 Art Unit: 1754
For : RANEY CATALYST, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING IT AND
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SUGAR-ALCOHOL USING THE
SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Official Action dated March 11, 1999, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I which are directed to a catalyst. Applicants respectfully submit that examining all claims in the present application would cause no undue burden.

Upon allowance of the claims in Group I, it is respectfully requested that the claims of Group II, which are drawn to the process of producing the catalyst, are rejoined in accordance with MPEP §821.04.

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The Office Action indicates that the invention of I and IV are unrelated, however, the Office Action lists no claims as a Group IV invention. Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to refer to the invention of Group III not Group IV. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16 and 17 are directed to a process of using the lump Raney catalyst defined in claim 5 of Group I. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that claims 16 and 17 of Group III are also rejoined in accordance MPEP §821.04. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Group I and III are capable of use together and thus the process claims of Group III should be rejoined upon allowance of the product claims.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and await examination of the application on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 31, 1999